

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007EDU0007-000048
Jan. 23, 2007

Ministry of Education

\$8.5-MILLION GORDON HEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENS

VICTORIA – Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA Ida Chong will join the Victoria school board, district staff and community leaders this evening for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open Gordon Head middle school to the students and community.

“Oak Bay-Gordon Head is a wonderful community in which to live and learn, and schools are the heart of our community,” said Chong. “The \$8.5-million conversion of Gordon Head to a middle school is providing Victoria’s students with even more educational opportunities so that they can achieve their best.”

The school was converted from an elementary school to a middle school as part of the district’s middle school conversion process. It has room for 400 students in grades 6 through 8 and boasts several new features, including:

- A double-sized gymnasium, built in partnership with the District of Saanich;
- New woodworking, drafting and home economics areas;
- Dedicated art, drama and dance space; and
- A larger library.

“The Gordon Head middle school project is an excellent example of how the Province, school boards and communities are working together to meet the needs of schools and communities,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “By working with the District of Saanich, the school district is expanding recreational opportunities available in the community outside of school hours.”

The District of Saanich provided \$687,000 to build a larger gymnasium that will be used by the community outside of school hours through the parks and recreation department. The Ministry of Education provided the school district with \$1.6 million for seismic upgrades and the school district provided the remaining \$6.9 million from funds generated by the school district’s sale of surplus assets and the annual facility grant.

“Middle school offers students in the Gordon Head neighbourhood the opportunity to explore many more opportunities, from home economics and shop to academic and fine arts programs,” said Greater Victoria school board chair Michael McEvoy. “We are very pleased to work with both the Province and the municipality of Saanich to make sure this is a school which serves both our students and our community.”

The Province has invested \$39 million in the Greater Victoria school district since 2000-01 for 13 capital projects, including: the \$8.5-million replacement of Colquitz middle school and the \$7.3-million addition to Spectrum Community school. During the same period, the Province has invested \$28.4 million in maintenance in the district.

-more-

- 2 -

Since 2001, government has invested over \$1 billion on 26 new schools, 31 replacements, 140 additions, 30 renovations and four seismic projects. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

-30-

Media Lara Perzoff
contact: Public Affairs Bureau
 Ministry of Education
 250 387-6940
 250 920-9040 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.